# EXHIBIT A

1	- TRANSCRIPT UNDER SEAL -
2	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
3	IN AND FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE
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6	H. LUNDBECK, A/S TAKEDA : CIVIL ACTION PHARMACEUTICAL COMPNAY :
7	LTD., TAKEDA : PHARMACEUTICALS U.S.A., :
8	INC., TAKEDA : PHARMACEUTICALS :
9	INTERNATIONAL AL and TAKEDA : PHARMACEUTICALS AMERICA, :
10	INC., :
11	Plaintiffs, :
	vs.
12	ALKEM LABORAROTIES LTD., et :
13	al., :
14	Defendant. : NO. 18-88 (LPS)
15	
16	Wilmington, Delaware
17	Friday, September 25, 2020 2:00 o'clock, p.m.
18	***Telephone conference
19	
20	BEFORE: HONORABLE JENNIFER L. HALL, U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE,
21	BEFORE: HONORABLE JENNIFER L. HALL, U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE,
22	
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24	
25	Valerie J. Gunning Official Court Reporter

## PROCEEDINGS

you.

(The following telephone conference was held beginning at 2:00 p.m.)

THE COURT: Good afternoon, everyone. This is Jennifer Hall. We are here today for a discovery dispute teleconference in Civil Action No. 18-88.

Let's have appearances for the record, starting with plaintiff.

MS. DELLINGER: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

This is Megan Dellinger from Morris Nichols on behalf of the plaintiff, and with me on the line is my co-counsel from Covington & Burling, Brianne Bharkhda and Tom Sullivan, and Ms. Bharkhda will be handling the argument on behalf of plaintiff today.

THE COURT: Very good. Good afternoon to all of

MR. GATTUSO: Good afternoon, Your Honor. I apologize. Good afternoon, Your Honor. It's Dominick Gattuso from Heyman Enerio.

I have with me on the line Mark Remus, Laura

Lydigsen and Jason Schigelone from the Brinks Gilson & Lione

firm.

I also have with me on the line, Your Honor,
Maggie Spencer, who is in-house counsel with Sandoz.

Mr. Remus is going to argue on behalf of Sandoz today, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Of course. Good afternoon to all of you.

I understand that this dispute is between plaintiff and Sandoz. Is there anyone else on the line that wishes to make an appearance for the record?

Okay. Hearing no response, I will also say for the record today that our court reporter is Val Gunning. We are still in the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic. I'm at the courthouse. My courtroom deputy and clerk are also dialed in on separate lines. We are not currently with the court reporter, but she has dialed in as well.

Okay. Let's have the movant begin. I was hoping we could limit our comments to around five minutes if that works. This seems to be a pretty straightforward dispute, and I will let everyone know that I've already reviewed the letters in detail as well as the attachments and the relevant portions of the docket. So go ahead.

MS. BHARKHDA: Your Honor, this is Brianne
Bharkhda for plaintiff, and I'm happy to answer any specific
questions Your Honor may have since you have reviewed the

letters and the briefing. If there's anything in particular you would like me to answer, I'm happy to do so.

We have a dispute here relating to two dependent claims of the '096 patent, claims 4 and 5. We indicated to Sandoz in July after some other patents dropped out of the case that we were no longer planning on asserting claims 4 and 5 of the '096 patent and therefore we do not think expert discovery relating to those patents would not necessary. Even though Sandoz had on a number of occasions told plaintiff and the Court that they didn't believe any of the claims of the '096 patent were properly in the case, Sandoz took the position that it was not sufficient for plaintiffs to indicate that it was no longer asserting those claims, that in order to remove the dispute and the expert discovery, we needed to do something more. They specifically suggested

Now, Dr. -- the parties in this case, this is a large Hatch-Waxman matter, are in the middle of expert discovery, expert deposition for various experts in the

case. Dr. Gozzo submitted an expert report that related
only to claims 4 and 5 of the '096 patent with respect to
the claims that remain in the, arguably in the case as of
today. Her report also related to the crystalline form
patents that had been in the case, but those had been
dismissed by Judge Stark. Dr. Myerson is similarly
situated. The opinions that he provided with respect to
Sandoz relate to claim 4 and 5 of the '096 patent.

In light of think that there is a proper dispute anymore. We have indicated that we don't plan to call Dr. Gozzo or Dr. Myerson at trial, but Sandoz has indicated that it wants to pursue the deposition of Dr. Myerson and Dr. Gozzo nonetheless, and we filed a protective order in this case as a result.

Now, the reason that Sandoz gave -
THE COURT: Counsel, counsel, if I could
interrupt you for just a minute.

MS. BHARKHDA: Yes.

THE COURT: So are you telling me that -- so Sandoz's claim for a D.J. of noninfringement is still pending. Is that right?

MS. BHARKHDA: There have been -- we have not filed a motion to dismiss at this point. Frankly, just to be clear, the D.J. action is for -- the D.J. claim relates

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broadly to just as the claims of the '096 patent. It's not specifically for claims 4 and 5.

We have not filed a motion to dismiss those. Our understanding now from Sandoz's letter is that that is what it thinks is necessary to formally resolve of this dispute. We can do so. We don't think that should be necessary because I think given the parties should be stipulating to dismissal without prejudice of those portions of the pending claims that relate to claims 4 and 5, but if Sandoz will not stipulate to that, then we can file a formal motion to dismiss. But as of today, those claims are still in the case. Regardless, we even while such a motion think given were pending, if Sandoz indicates that it will require us to file such a motion, the protective order is still appropriate because we don't see how their goal, how those claims are going to remain in the case at the end of such a motion.

So this issue about whether or not a motion to dismiss has been filed seems like form over substance to us because I don't see a real argument that claims 4 and 5 are actually still in the case.

THE COURT: Well, and I appreciate your argument about it seeming like form over substance, but the issues that I'm dealing with is that I am not the Judge who is

going to be deciding whether or not those claims are in the case, and it seems to me that my decision is not being made in a vacuum.

I can look at the docket and see that there was some discussion about dismissing claims or counterclaims relating to the '096 patent, and that Judge Stark said nothing is going to happen at this time, and if you want to file a motion to dismiss, you could file a motion to dismiss, and that didn't happen. So I don't know the backstory. I'm assuming it doesn't really matter because I'm not the one that would be deciding that motion anyway, but today as it stands before me, I've got these, the D.J. counterclaims pending.

I've heard you say you weren't going to offer the testimony of Dr. Gozzo and Myerson against Sandoz at trial and I want to make sure I understand what you are saying.

If we move to trial and Sandoz moves forward requesting a D.J. of noninfringement, are you saying that in response, you're not going to offer the testimony of Dr. Gozzo and Myerson?

MS. BHARKHDA: Well, Your Honor, if there -- if by some -- if there is some decision by the Court that the claims are still in the case, we would have to offer that testimony at trial, but we don't think there's an actual

dispute here, and we -- I don't think -- the Judge said that the parties may file motions to dismiss. Sandoz has argued to us that it shouldn't be necessary for the parties to do that. We should be agreeing to dismiss all. In fact, they said that to the Court when responding, when filing their motion to dismiss regarding the '910 patents. They didn't give us advance notice of their motion to dismiss and then we decided not to oppose it, so we just filed the response not opposing it.

In response to that, Sandoz told the Court that they believed that they should not have had to go to the burden and expense of filing the motion to dismiss at all. We should have just agreed to dismiss the claims, and we think that that is what should be done here. We have given Sandoz advance notice of the fact that we think these claims should be out of the case. If by some measure the Court were to find that there's subject matter jurisdiction here supporting Sandoz's claims, then we would, we would have to put on Dr. Myerson and Gozzo at trial. We don't think that's the case, and the only basis that Sandoz has given for why the claims should still be in the case to us is that they don't believe that

Now, we were expecting in Sandoz's responsive letter brief to Your Honor consistent with what they put in

explain the basis, the legal basis for their contentions that didn't extinguish the case or controversy. So that's their basis for saying they would need to go forward, would be a deposition. At least that was articulated to us prior to receipt of their responsive letter.

And they did not do so, which I think reinforces our point that we think it is legally sufficient and there's no basis for (inaudible) the claims in the case. But if the real concern is that there's no actual motion to dismiss on file, we'll file one immediately, but we don't think that should be necessary and Sandoz we don't think has a legal position to oppose it.

So there still isn't a basis to go forward with these depositions in the meantime if the likely outcome of a motion to dismiss even if Sandoz isn't going to oppose it or that we will prevail with Judge Stark.

THE COURT: All right. One question I had about that is, we're in September, we're in late September, and so this is two months after I see a docket entry saying that if anyone wants to file any motions to dismiss, they should file it. So I'm trying to understand how what happened in the meantime in terms of why is there so much delay in the motion to dismiss.

MS. BHARKHDA: Sure. I'm happy to explain the timeline.

So on July 7th, Sandoz told plaintiffs that they believed that the claims relating to the '096 patent should be dismissed without prejudice. On July 8th, Sandoz told the Court the same thing. They -- and that was in docket entry 39.

Plaintiffs' counsel was considering that position, and on July 22nd, we informed Sandoz that and Judge Stark that we were no longer asserting claims 4 and 5 of the '096 patent against Sandoz. We made that very clear in July, as soon as plaintiff, our clients were onboard that we were no longer pursuing those claims. And we thought that frankly would resolve the issue because Sandoz had repeatedly been on record with both plaintiff and the Court indicating that they didn't believe there was subject matter jurisdiction over any of the claims of the '096 patent. on that same date, Sandoz made an about face and stated that they would, that they didn't agree that claims 4 and 5 of the '096 patent were out of the case, and instead Sandoz demanded and indicated that they would insist on deposing Dr. Myerson and Dr. Gozzo unless

Now, that was -- and that happened on July 28th.

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the claims are no longer in the case, and Drs. Myerson and Gozzo didn't need to be deposed.

was sufficient, and they were going to proceed with the depositions of Dr. Myerson sand Dr. Gozzo, hence our filing of the, of our motion for a protective order.

And in their previous position, Sandoz indicated

And the first tame that we -- and we are clear that we think Sandoz should be stipulating to dismissal without prejudice of the claims because we don't think they're in the case, and this is the -- the first time that we heard Sandoz's argument that the real problem here is that we have not filed a formal motion to dismiss within the letter briefs to the Court on this Tuesday.

So we can file a formal motion to dismiss to resolve the dispute, but all of the facts are going to be

the same and there's no cause for deposing these witnesses at this point in time.

THE COURT: All right. I gave you some extra time and I will give the other side some equal time, but I have one more question. Assuming that I do permit the deposition of Dr. Gozzo and Myerson to go forward, there's this other issue about whether or not you're barred from conferring with Dr. Gozzo in preparation of her deposition.

Can you just tell me what has happened with Dr.

Gozzo so far? Was there a portion of her deposition that

was joint and then portions that were specific to individual

defendants or have all of the depositions of Dr. Gozzo been

individual issue depositions?

MS. BHARKHDA: There were two prior individual issue depositions of Dr. Gozzo. There was no joint questioning and no joint deposition. There was a deposition by MSN and a deposition by Torrent, and they were separate self-contained depositions.

If Your Honor would like to see, for example, the transcript of those indicating that they -- showing that they went only lawyers for MSN were at the MSN deposition. They went on the record and began as the normal deposition and they closed the deposition at the end. The Torrent deposition was only attended by Torrent's lawyers, and obviously, lawyers for plaintiffs were on both. They opened

the deposition as a separate deposition and closed it as a separate deposition.

So I'm happy to provide. And there were only questions about -- they pertained to the individual infringement issues for MSN and Torrent each respectively.

And if Your Honor would like to see the transcript of those, we're happy to provide them.

THE COURT: No, I don't, I don't need to see it.

But just to be clear, those were also marked confidential
under the protective order as well?

MS. BHARKHDA: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay. Very good.

All right. Let me hear from Sandoz regarding the issues in dispute. Go ahead, counsel.

MR. REMUS: Thank you, Your Honor. This is Mark Remus. I will be speaking on behalf of Sandoz and Lex.

This is not a matter of form over substance. I think it's very important to resolving this issue to keep our eyes focused on what specifically the Court has been asked to decide, and that is should plaintiff get a protective order preventing further discovery of their experts by Sandoz? What is not before the Court is whether or not there's a case or controversy or continuing subject matter jurisdiction.

Plaintiffs have not filed that motion. Judge

Stark told them that if they wanted to challenge jurisdiction, they need to file a motion and they have not done that. So the only issue that we're here to discuss today is whether or not their application for protective order is proper and Sandoz strongly believes it is not proper.

Plaintiffs' request is contrary to both the letter and the spirit of local Rule 30.2. Local Rule 30.2 allows somebody to challenge further deposition testimony to get a protective order under Rule 26 or Rule. Protective orders for those rules are granted to prevent annoyance, embarrassment, oppression. None of that is present here.

The only basis for plaintiffs' request is that they think there's no longer subject matter jurisdiction.

The only challenge for that is to file a Rule 12 motion, and Rule 12 is not mentioned anywhere in local Rule 30.2 as a basis for terminating a deposition.

Plaintiff took it upon themselves for self-help to give themselves a stay of discovery and filed its motion for a protective order on an improper basis knowing full well that Judge Stark told them if they want to get rid of the claim, they have to file a motion to dismiss.

Now, all of this gamesmanship by plaintiffs has worked a great prejudice on Sandoz. Sandoz coordinated with MSN and Torrent in an extent to streamline the deposition of

Dr. Gozzo.

Plaintiff sat on this issue for many weeks as you just heard and then ripped the rug out underneath from defendants just days before the Gozzo deposition, which frustrated preparation for all parties on the Gozzo deposition, and now plaintiffs seek to exacerbate that prejudice by asking this Court to forego local Rule 30.6 and allow them to speak to Dr. Gozzo before Sandoz takes Dr. Gozzo's deposition. And that is wholly improper.

the situation where counsel should not be allowed to talk to their witness about the substance of their testimony based on questions that have already been asked. This notion that each defendant constitutes a separate deposition is a legal fiction that was created by Covington in these letters and has no basis in all of the history of this case up until this particular dispute, and we cited that in our letter brief where both Judge Stark and plaintiffs themselves referred to a deposition of Dr. Myerson and Dr. Gozzo in the singular, and this case has been consolidated for all purposes.

So this deposition of Dr. Gozzo is a single deposition and plaintiffs should not be allowed to review that transcript from the MSN and Torrent depositions and then coach Dr. Gozzo what to say for the Sandoz depositions

based on what they've already learned.

This is no different than if Dr. Gozzo were testifying on the stand at trial. If MSN and Torrent finish their questioning of Dr. Gozzo, I would be shocked if Judge Stark allowed plaintiffs to then talk to Dr. Gozzo about the substance of her testimony before Sandoz questioned Dr. Gozzo. The same should apply to the depositions here.

As Your Honor noted, we don't have much time.

Trial is set for January of 2021. We need to schedule these depositions of Dr. Gozzo and Dr. Myerson so that we can be trial ready by the time set by Judge Stark.

There is no basis for a protective order here.

If plaintiffs want to challenge subject matter jurisdiction,

Judge stark told them how to do that, and that is filing a

Rule 12 motion.

THE COURT: Counsel, let me ask you. The way I understood how Dr. Gozzo's deposition or depositions have been proceeding is that they've been completely separate among defendants. You're suggesting something different. Can you straighten me out here?

MR. REMUS: I can't speak to how the MSN and Torrent depositions specifically were handled because we were not present at that deposition, so we can't say what was or was not on the transcript. What I can say is that every discussion the parties have had about these

depositions refer to the depositions in the singular, a deposition of Dr. Myerson, and just because one defendant finishes their questioning and another begins does not mean that a new deposition has begun.

THE COURT: Okay. I understand your position.

Anything else you wanted to add?

MR. REMUS: No. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. We'll turn it back over to the plaintiff for the last word. Just a minute, please. Go ahead.

MS. BHARKHDA: Your Honor, I did want to address the issue of the legal standard for a protective order for absent burden, annoyance, and there is a reason here particularly why going forward with depositions that are not actually going to be at issue in the case totally meets that standard.

First of all, Dr. Myerson is scheduled to sit for more than 40 hours of depositions in this case, and so to ask him if Sandoz, if Sandoz matters are not really particularly in this case, to sit for more time is a burden both to the witness and to plaintiffs.

Dr. Gozzo, similarly. We would have to take additional time out of the deposition she has already given to do so. And as a general matter, there are 29 different experts in this case. There are at least two to three

depositions that happen in a week. Some of these are multi-day accept depositions in this case, so there is a lot happening to add on two depositions here where the actual issues are not in dispute.

And the other issue is that right now Dr.

Myerson is scheduled to be deposed, I believe it's the
second week of November, and so even if plaintiff filed
their motion and (inaudible) and was going to dismiss, I
think issue is, the question of whether or not it's
appropriate for Sandoz to participate in that deposition is
still going to be an issue and we don't think it's
appropriate or proper.

So it's not just a matter of file a motion to dismiss and wait to see what Dr., excuse me, what Judge Stark does with it. I mean, one question is, if we file a motion to dismiss, is Sandoz going to oppose it, because right now we don't have a clear answer on that one way or the other or what the basis for doing so would be, and absent that, this bogeyman of the fact that a formal motion to dismiss hasn't been filed yet I don't think resolves the issue.

THE COURT: All right. I appreciate your position and I understand your position. Counsel, I'm ready to rule on this dispute and my ruling is as follows.

Plaintiffs' request for a protective order to

prevent Sandoz from deposing Dr. Gozzo and Myerson is denied. The Court can issue a protective order for good cause to protect a person or party from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or excess. The burden of persuasion is on the party seeking the protective order.

Here, plaintiff contends that good cause exists because the deposition testimony is not relevant. I have reviewed the letters and attachments. I've reviewed the cited portions of the docket. I have an understanding of what's likely going on here and I'm fully aware that this motion before me is only a little piece of a much larger dispute, but I've only been referred this piece and I'm only going to decide this piece. And in my mind, the operative facts to me in deciding my piece are these.

One, Sandoz has a live counterclaim for a declaratory judgment of noninfringement. Not only is it live, it is not currently subject to a motion to dismiss.

Two, plaintiff intends to offer the testimony of Dr. Gozzo and Myerson in defense of that counterclaim it has tried.

My decision is also informed by the context here, which is that we're talking about a video deposition regarding infringement opinions that have already been set forth in expert reports. The only question is whether

Sandoz can depose these experts on those opinions. On those facts, plaintiffs' request is denied.

There is also an issue about plaintiffs, whether plaintiffs are currently barred under Delaware local Rule 30.6 from conferring with Dr. Gozzo in preparation of her deposition. Essentially, as I understand it, Sandoz seeks to prevent plaintiff from prepping Dr. Gozzo for her deposition.

Under the particular circumstances here, I'm unpersuaded by Sandoz's argument. Again, I've read the submissions and I've looked at the relevant portions of the docket and we're not operating in a vacuum here. Chief Judge Stark has already ruled on what depositions can be taken of Dr. Gozzo. I understand that Dr. Gozzo's deposition taken by the other two defendants have been completely separate. There is no common portion of that deposition. However, notwithstanding the fact that plaintiff can prep Dr. Gozzo, Sandoz will be permitted to conduct a short colloquy at the beginning of the deposition.

You can ask if plaintiff consulted with Dr.

Gozzo prior to the deposition. If that answer is yes, you can ask whether Dr. Gozzo consulted with counsel for plaintiff regarding testimony she has already given. You can't ask what was said. And you can ask about which areas of the testimony already given was the consultation. You

can't ask what was said. And you can make a record that this happened.

If, for whatever reason, Dr. Gozzo presents diametrically opposed testimony, then you can try to make some hay with Judge Stark at trial, because I understand this is going to be a bench trial. But I actually think this is extremely unlikely to happen in light of the fact that it seems to me this case, or these particular claims won't be tried, number one, and, number two, I think it's unlikely that the plaintiff would present diametrically opposed testimony, but that's not for me to say. You can make this record. I hope that was clear to everyone.

Counsel for plaintiff, any questions?

MS. BHARKHDA: I don't believe so, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Counsel for Sandoz, any

questions?

MR. REMUS: No questions, but one request, and that is we would ask that at least temporarily that the court reporter maintain this transcript under seal so that we have an opportunity to review it to see if there's anything confidential.

, and we would just

like the opportunity to review that transcript before it becomes public.

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THE COURT: That's fine. I understand that we're proceeding under the scheduling order that Judge Stark has entered in this case, and my recollection is that he has a standard provision about how these things should be treated, and if that's the appropriate procedure, then we'll let the transcript be marked confidential and you should proceed in accordance with what other followup procedures are set forth in the scheduling order. Anything else, counsel? MR. REMUS: No. Thank you, Your Honor. All right. Thank you to all of you. THE COURT: I hope everyone is safe and well, and we'll be adjourned. (Counsel respond, "Thank you, Your Honor.") (Telephone conference concluded at 2:31 p.m.)

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# EXHIBIT B

1	- TRANSCRIPT UNDER SEAL -
2	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
3	IN AND FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE
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5	
6	H. LUNDBECK, A/S TAKEDA : CIVIL ACTION PHARMACEUTICAL COMPNAY :
	LTD., TAKEDA :
7	PHARMACEUTICALS U.S.A., :
	INC., TAKEDA :
8	PHARMACEUTICALS :
	INTERNATIONAL AL and TAKEDA :
9	PHARMACEUTICALS AMERICA, :
•	INC., :
10	
10	Plaintiffs, :
11	FIGURE :
Т.Т	<u> </u>
1 0	vs.
12	;
1.0	ALKEM LABORAROTIES LTD., et :
13	al., :
14	: Defendant. : NO. 18-88 (LPS)
15	
16	
	Wilmington, Delaware
17	Friday, September 25, 2020
	2:00 o'clock, p.m.
18	***Telephone conference
19	
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20	
20	DEEODE. HONODADIE TENNIEED I HAII IIC MACTOMDAME TIDOE
0.1	BEFORE: HONORABLE JENNIFER L. HALL, U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE,
21	
22	
23	
24	
	Valerie J. Gunning
25	Official Court Reporter
	<u> </u>

25

## PROCEEDINGS

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beginning at 2:00 p.m.)

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you.

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24 25 (The following telephone conference was held

THE COURT: Good afternoon, everyone. This is Jennifer Hall. We are here today for a discovery dispute teleconference in Civil Action No. 18-88.

Let's have appearances for the record, starting with plaintiff.

MS. DELLINGER: Good afternoon, Your Honor. This is Megan Dellinger from Morris Nichols on behalf of the plaintiff, and with me on the line is my co-counsel from Covington & Burling, Brianne Bharkhda and Tom Sullivan, and Ms. Bharkhda will be handling the argument on behalf of plaintiff today.

THE COURT: Very good. Good afternoon to all of

MR. GATTUSO: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Ι apologize. Good afternoon, Your Honor. It's Dominick Gattuso from Heyman Enerio.

I have with me on the line Mark Remus, Laura Lydigsen and Jason Schigelone from the Brinks Gilson & Lione firm.

I also have with me on the line, Your Honor,
Maggie Spencer, who is in-house counsel with Sandoz.

Mr. Remus is going to argue on behalf of Sandoz today, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Of course. Good afternoon to all of you.

I understand that this dispute is between plaintiff and Sandoz. Is there anyone else on the line that wishes to make an appearance for the record?

Okay. Hearing no response, I will also say for the record today that our court reporter is Val Gunning. We are still in the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic. I'm at the courthouse. My courtroom deputy and clerk are also dialed in on separate lines. We are not currently with the court reporter, but she has dialed in as well.

Okay. Let's have the movant begin. I was hoping we could limit our comments to around five minutes if that works. This seems to be a pretty straightforward dispute, and I will let everyone know that I've already reviewed the letters in detail as well as the attachments and the relevant portions of the docket. So go ahead.

MS. BHARKHDA: Your Honor, this is Brianne
Bharkhda for plaintiff, and I'm happy to answer any specific
questions Your Honor may have since you have reviewed the

letters and the briefing. If there's anything in particular you would like me to answer, I'm happy to do so.

We have a dispute here relating to two dependent claims of the '096 patent, claims 4 and 5. We indicated to Sandoz in July after some other patents dropped out of the case that we were no longer planning on asserting claims 4 and 5 of the '096 patent and therefore we do not think expert discovery relating to those patents would not necessary. Even though Sandoz had on a number of occasions told plaintiff and the Court that they didn't believe any of the claims of the '096 patent were properly in the case, Sandoz took the position that it was not sufficient for plaintiffs to indicate that it was no longer asserting those claims, that in order to remove the dispute and the expert discovery, we needed to do something more. They specifically suggested

Now, Dr. -- the parties in this case, this is a large Hatch-Waxman matter, are in the middle of expert discovery, expert deposition for various experts in the

case. Dr. Gozzo submitted an expert report that related only to claims 4 and 5 of the '096 patent with respect to the claims that remain in the, arguably in the case as of today. Her report also related to the crystalline form patents that had been in the case, but those had been dismissed by Judge Stark. Dr. Myerson is similarly situated. The opinions that he provided with respect to Sandoz relate to claim 4 and 5 of the '096 patent.

In light of think that there is a proper dispute anymore. We have indicated that we don't plan to call Dr. Gozzo or Dr. Myerson at trial, but Sandoz has indicated that it wants to pursue the deposition of Dr. Myerson and Dr. Gozzo nonetheless, and we filed a protective order in this case as a result.

Now, the reason that Sandoz gave -
THE COURT: Counsel, counsel, if I could
interrupt you for just a minute.

MS. BHARKHDA: Yes.

THE COURT: So are you telling me that -- so Sandoz's claim for a D.J. of noninfringement is still pending. Is that right?

MS. BHARKHDA: There have been -- we have not filed a motion to dismiss at this point. Frankly, just to be clear, the D.J. action is for -- the D.J. claim relates

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broadly to just as the claims of the '096 patent. It's not specifically for claims 4 and 5.

We have not filed a motion to dismiss those. Our understanding now from Sandoz's letter is that that is what it thinks is necessary to formally resolve of this dispute. We can do so. We don't think that should be necessary because I think given the parties should be stipulating to dismissal without prejudice of those portions of the pending claims that relate to claims 4 and 5, but if Sandoz will not stipulate to that, then we can file a formal motion to dismiss. But as of today, those claims are still in the case. Regardless, we even while such a motion think given were pending, if Sandoz indicates that it will require us to file such a motion, the protective order is still appropriate because we don't see how their goal, how those claims are going to remain in the case at the end of such a motion.

So this issue about whether or not a motion to dismiss has been filed seems like form over substance to us because I don't see a real argument that claims 4 and 5 are actually still in the case.

THE COURT: Well, and I appreciate your argument about it seeming like form over substance, but the issues that I'm dealing with is that I am not the Judge who is

going to be deciding whether or not those claims are in the case, and it seems to me that my decision is not being made in a vacuum.

I can look at the docket and see that there was some discussion about dismissing claims or counterclaims relating to the '096 patent, and that Judge Stark said nothing is going to happen at this time, and if you want to file a motion to dismiss, you could file a motion to dismiss, and that didn't happen. So I don't know the backstory. I'm assuming it doesn't really matter because I'm not the one that would be deciding that motion anyway, but today as it stands before me, I've got these, the D.J. counterclaims pending.

I've heard you say you weren't going to offer the testimony of Dr. Gozzo and Myerson against Sandoz at trial and I want to make sure I understand what you are saying.

If we move to trial and Sandoz moves forward requesting a D.J. of noninfringement, are you saying that in response, you're not going to offer the testimony of Dr. Gozzo and Myerson?

MS. BHARKHDA: Well, Your Honor, if there -- if by some -- if there is some decision by the Court that the claims are still in the case, we would have to offer that testimony at trial, but we don't think there's an actual

dispute here, and we -- I don't think -- the Judge said that the parties may file motions to dismiss. Sandoz has argued to us that it shouldn't be necessary for the parties to do that. We should be agreeing to dismiss all. In fact, they said that to the Court when responding, when filing their motion to dismiss regarding the '910 patents. They didn't give us advance notice of their motion to dismiss and then we decided not to oppose it, so we just filed the response not opposing it.

In response to that, Sandoz told the Court that they believed that they should not have had to go to the burden and expense of filing the motion to dismiss at all. We should have just agreed to dismiss the claims, and we think that that is what should be done here. We have given Sandoz advance notice of the fact that we think these claims should be out of the case. If by some measure the Court were to find that there's subject matter jurisdiction here supporting Sandoz's claims, then we would, we would have to put on Dr. Myerson and Gozzo at trial. We don't think that's the case, and the only basis that Sandoz has given for why the claims should still be in the case to us is that they don't believe that

Now, we were expecting in Sandoz's responsive letter brief to Your Honor consistent with what they put in

explain the basis, the legal basis for their contentions that didn't extinguish the case or controversy. So that's their basis for saying they would need to go forward, would be a deposition. At least that was articulated to us prior to receipt of their responsive letter.

And they did not do so, which I think reinforces our point that we think it is legally sufficient and there's no basis for (inaudible) the claims in the case. But if the real concern is that there's no actual motion to dismiss on file, we'll file one immediately, but we don't think that should be necessary and Sandoz we don't think has a legal position to oppose it.

So there still isn't a basis to go forward with these depositions in the meantime if the likely outcome of a motion to dismiss even if Sandoz isn't going to oppose it or that we will prevail with Judge Stark.

THE COURT: All right. One question I had about that is, we're in September, we're in late September, and so this is two months after I see a docket entry saying that if anyone wants to file any motions to dismiss, they should file it. So I'm trying to understand how what happened in the meantime in terms of why is there so much delay in the motion to dismiss.

MS. BHARKHDA: Sure. I'm happy to explain the timeline.

So on July 7th, Sandoz told plaintiffs that they believed that the claims relating to the '096 patent should be dismissed without prejudice. On July 8th, Sandoz told the Court the same thing. They -- and that was in docket entry 39.

Plaintiffs' counsel was considering that position, and on July 22nd, we informed Sandoz that and Judge Stark that we were no longer asserting claims 4 and 5 of the '096 patent against Sandoz. We made that very clear in July, as soon as plaintiff, our clients were onboard that we were no longer pursuing those claims. And we thought that frankly would resolve the issue because Sandoz had repeatedly been on record with both plaintiff and the Court indicating that they didn't believe there was subject matter jurisdiction over any of the claims of the '096 patent. on that same date, Sandoz made an about face and stated that they would, that they didn't agree that claims 4 and 5 of the '096 patent were out of the case, and instead Sandoz demanded and indicated that they would insist on deposing Dr. Myerson and Dr. Gozzo unless

Now, that was -- and that happened on July 28th.

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the claims are no longer in the case, and Drs. Myerson and Gozzo didn't need to be deposed.

was sufficient, and they were going to proceed with the depositions of Dr. Myerson sand Dr. Gozzo, hence our filing of the, of our motion for a protective order.

And in their previous position, Sandoz indicated

And the first tame that we -- and we are clear that we think Sandoz should be stipulating to dismissal without prejudice of the claims because we don't think they're in the case, and this is the -- the first time that we heard Sandoz's argument that the real problem here is that we have not filed a formal motion to dismiss within the letter briefs to the Court on this Tuesday.

So we can file a formal motion to dismiss to resolve the dispute, but all of the facts are going to be

the same and there's no cause for deposing these witnesses at this point in time.

THE COURT: All right. I gave you some extra time and I will give the other side some equal time, but I have one more question. Assuming that I do permit the deposition of Dr. Gozzo and Myerson to go forward, there's this other issue about whether or not you're barred from conferring with Dr. Gozzo in preparation of her deposition.

Can you just tell me what has happened with Dr.

Gozzo so far? Was there a portion of her deposition that

was joint and then portions that were specific to individual

defendants or have all of the depositions of Dr. Gozzo been

individual issue depositions?

MS. BHARKHDA: There were two prior individual issue depositions of Dr. Gozzo. There was no joint questioning and no joint deposition. There was a deposition by MSN and a deposition by Torrent, and they were separate self-contained depositions.

If Your Honor would like to see, for example, the transcript of those indicating that they -- showing that they went only lawyers for MSN were at the MSN deposition. They went on the record and began as the normal deposition and they closed the deposition at the end. The Torrent deposition was only attended by Torrent's lawyers, and obviously, lawyers for plaintiffs were on both. They opened

the deposition as a separate deposition and closed it as a separate deposition.

So I'm happy to provide. And there were only questions about -- they pertained to the individual infringement issues for MSN and Torrent each respectively.

And if Your Honor would like to see the transcript of those, we're happy to provide them.

THE COURT: No, I don't, I don't need to see it.

But just to be clear, those were also marked confidential
under the protective order as well?

MS. BHARKHDA: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay. Very good.

All right. Let me hear from Sandoz regarding the issues in dispute. Go ahead, counsel.

MR. REMUS: Thank you, Your Honor. This is Mark
Remus. I will be speaking on behalf of Sandoz and Lex.

This is not a matter of form over substance. I think it's very important to resolving this issue to keep our eyes focused on what specifically the Court has been asked to decide, and that is should plaintiff get a protective order preventing further discovery of their experts by Sandoz? What is not before the Court is whether or not there's a case or controversy or continuing subject matter jurisdiction.

Plaintiffs have not filed that motion. Judge

Stark told them that if they wanted to challenge jurisdiction, they need to file a motion and they have not done that. So the only issue that we're here to discuss today is whether or not their application for protective order is proper and Sandoz strongly believes it is not proper.

Plaintiffs' request is contrary to both the letter and the spirit of local Rule 30.2. Local Rule 30.2 allows somebody to challenge further deposition testimony to get a protective order under Rule 26 or Rule. Protective orders for those rules are granted to prevent annoyance, embarrassment, oppression. None of that is present here.

The only basis for plaintiffs' request is that they think there's no longer subject matter jurisdiction.

The only challenge for that is to file a Rule 12 motion, and Rule 12 is not mentioned anywhere in local Rule 30.2 as a basis for terminating a deposition.

Plaintiff took it upon themselves for self-help to give themselves a stay of discovery and filed its motion for a protective order on an improper basis knowing full well that Judge Stark told them if they want to get rid of the claim, they have to file a motion to dismiss.

Now, all of this gamesmanship by plaintiffs has worked a great prejudice on Sandoz. Sandoz coordinated with MSN and Torrent in an extent to streamline the deposition of

Dr. Gozzo.

Plaintiff sat on this issue for many weeks as you just heard and then ripped the rug out underneath from defendants just days before the Gozzo deposition, which frustrated preparation for all parties on the Gozzo deposition, and now plaintiffs seek to exacerbate that prejudice by asking this Court to forego local Rule 30.6 and allow them to speak to Dr. Gozzo before Sandoz takes Dr. Gozzo's deposition. And that is wholly improper.

the situation where counsel should not be allowed to talk to their witness about the substance of their testimony based on questions that have already been asked. This notion that each defendant constitutes a separate deposition is a legal fiction that was created by Covington in these letters and has no basis in all of the history of this case up until this particular dispute, and we cited that in our letter brief where both Judge Stark and plaintiffs themselves referred to a deposition of Dr. Myerson and Dr. Gozzo in the singular, and this case has been consolidated for all purposes.

So this deposition of Dr. Gozzo is a single deposition and plaintiffs should not be allowed to review that transcript from the MSN and Torrent depositions and then coach Dr. Gozzo what to say for the Sandoz depositions

based on what they've already learned.

This is no different than if Dr. Gozzo were testifying on the stand at trial. If MSN and Torrent finish their questioning of Dr. Gozzo, I would be shocked if Judge Stark allowed plaintiffs to then talk to Dr. Gozzo about the substance of her testimony before Sandoz questioned Dr. Gozzo. The same should apply to the depositions here.

As Your Honor noted, we don't have much time.

Trial is set for January of 2021. We need to schedule these depositions of Dr. Gozzo and Dr. Myerson so that we can be trial ready by the time set by Judge Stark.

There is no basis for a protective order here.

If plaintiffs want to challenge subject matter jurisdiction,

Judge stark told them how to do that, and that is filing a

Rule 12 motion.

THE COURT: Counsel, let me ask you. The way I understood how Dr. Gozzo's deposition or depositions have been proceeding is that they've been completely separate among defendants. You're suggesting something different. Can you straighten me out here?

MR. REMUS: I can't speak to how the MSN and Torrent depositions specifically were handled because we were not present at that deposition, so we can't say what was or was not on the transcript. What I can say is that every discussion the parties have had about these

depositions refer to the depositions in the singular, a deposition of Dr. Myerson, and just because one defendant finishes their questioning and another begins does not mean that a new deposition has begun.

THE COURT: Okay. I understand your position.

Anything else you wanted to add?

MR. REMUS: No. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. We'll turn it back over to the plaintiff for the last word. Just a minute, please. Go ahead.

MS. BHARKHDA: Your Honor, I did want to address the issue of the legal standard for a protective order for absent burden, annoyance, and there is a reason here particularly why going forward with depositions that are not actually going to be at issue in the case totally meets that standard.

First of all, Dr. Myerson is scheduled to sit for more than 40 hours of depositions in this case, and so to ask him if Sandoz, if Sandoz matters are not really particularly in this case, to sit for more time is a burden both to the witness and to plaintiffs.

Dr. Gozzo, similarly. We would have to take additional time out of the deposition she has already given to do so. And as a general matter, there are 29 different experts in this case. There are at least two to three

depositions that happen in a week. Some of these are multi-day accept depositions in this case, so there is a lot happening to add on two depositions here where the actual issues are not in dispute.

And the other issue is that right now Dr.

Myerson is scheduled to be deposed, I believe it's the
second week of November, and so even if plaintiff filed
their motion and (inaudible) and was going to dismiss, I
think issue is, the question of whether or not it's
appropriate for Sandoz to participate in that deposition is
still going to be an issue and we don't think it's
appropriate or proper.

So it's not just a matter of file a motion to dismiss and wait to see what Dr., excuse me, what Judge Stark does with it. I mean, one question is, if we file a motion to dismiss, is Sandoz going to oppose it, because right now we don't have a clear answer on that one way or the other or what the basis for doing so would be, and absent that, this bogeyman of the fact that a formal motion to dismiss hasn't been filed yet I don't think resolves the issue.

THE COURT: All right. I appreciate your position and I understand your position. Counsel, I'm ready to rule on this dispute and my ruling is as follows.

Plaintiffs' request for a protective order to

prevent Sandoz from deposing Dr. Gozzo and Myerson is denied. The Court can issue a protective order for good cause to protect a person or party from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or excess. The burden of persuasion is on the party seeking the protective order.

Here, plaintiff contends that good cause exists because the deposition testimony is not relevant. I have reviewed the letters and attachments. I've reviewed the cited portions of the docket. I have an understanding of what's likely going on here and I'm fully aware that this motion before me is only a little piece of a much larger dispute, but I've only been referred this piece and I'm only going to decide this piece. And in my mind, the operative facts to me in deciding my piece are these.

One, Sandoz has a live counterclaim for a declaratory judgment of noninfringement. Not only is it live, it is not currently subject to a motion to dismiss.

Two, plaintiff intends to offer the testimony of Dr. Gozzo and Myerson in defense of that counterclaim it has tried.

My decision is also informed by the context here, which is that we're talking about a video deposition regarding infringement opinions that have already been set forth in expert reports. The only question is whether

Sandoz can depose these experts on those opinions. On those facts, plaintiffs' request is denied.

There is also an issue about plaintiffs, whether plaintiffs are currently barred under Delaware local Rule 30.6 from conferring with Dr. Gozzo in preparation of her deposition. Essentially, as I understand it, Sandoz seeks to prevent plaintiff from prepping Dr. Gozzo for her deposition.

Under the particular circumstances here, I'm unpersuaded by Sandoz's argument. Again, I've read the submissions and I've looked at the relevant portions of the docket and we're not operating in a vacuum here. Chief Judge Stark has already ruled on what depositions can be taken of Dr. Gozzo. I understand that Dr. Gozzo's deposition taken by the other two defendants have been completely separate. There is no common portion of that deposition. However, notwithstanding the fact that plaintiff can prep Dr. Gozzo, Sandoz will be permitted to conduct a short colloquy at the beginning of the deposition.

You can ask if plaintiff consulted with Dr.

Gozzo prior to the deposition. If that answer is yes, you can ask whether Dr. Gozzo consulted with counsel for plaintiff regarding testimony she has already given. You can't ask what was said. And you can ask about which areas of the testimony already given was the consultation. You

can't ask what was said. And you can make a record that this happened.

If, for whatever reason, Dr. Gozzo presents diametrically opposed testimony, then you can try to make some hay with Judge Stark at trial, because I understand this is going to be a bench trial. But I actually think this is extremely unlikely to happen in light of the fact that it seems to me this case, or these particular claims won't be tried, number one, and, number two, I think it's unlikely that the plaintiff would present diametrically opposed testimony, but that's not for me to say. You can make this record. I hope that was clear to everyone.

Counsel for plaintiff, any questions?

MS. BHARKHDA: I don't believe so, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Counsel for Sandoz, any

questions?

MR. REMUS: No questions, but one request, and that is we would ask that at least temporarily that the court reporter maintain this transcript under seal so that we have an opportunity to review it to see if there's anything confidential.

, and we would just

like the opportunity to review that transcript before it becomes public.

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THE COURT: That's fine. I understand that we're proceeding under the scheduling order that Judge Stark has entered in this case, and my recollection is that he has a standard provision about how these things should be treated, and if that's the appropriate procedure, then we'll let the transcript be marked confidential and you should proceed in accordance with what other followup procedures are set forth in the scheduling order. Anything else, counsel? MR. REMUS: No. Thank you, Your Honor. All right. Thank you to all of you. THE COURT: I hope everyone is safe and well, and we'll be adjourned. (Counsel respond, "Thank you, Your Honor.") (Telephone conference concluded at 2:31 p.m.)

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